

NOTES

***Eriocaulon longifolium* Nees ex Kunth (Eriocaulaceae), a new record for Australia**

Bentham (1878) stated that *Eriocaulon australe* R. Br. is "The largest of the Australian species". Certainly *E. australe* has the largest plants of the Australian species of *Eriocaulon* and with leaves to 80 cm long and peduncles to 100 cm long it is readily distinguished from other Australian species, the majority of which have plants which are mostly less than 25 cm high. In the absence of any recent treatment of Australian *Eriocaulon*, Bentham's account contains the only Australia-wide key for identification of Australian material of this genus. This situation appears to have led to the identification of all material from tall plants with long leaves as *E. australe*, based solely on the size of the plant.

Examination of some unidentified material at NT and DNA by the author in preparation for a revision of the genus in Australia led to the identification of some robust specimens as *E. longifolium* Nees ex Kunth using the accounts of *Eriocaulon* by van Royen (1959) and Ruhland (1903). The superficial similarity of this material to that of *E. australe* was apparent. Examination of further material from BRI and NSW confirmed that two species were indeed represented by specimens identified as *E. australe* in Australia. Australian specimens thought to belong to *E. longifolium* were found to be conspecific with material under that name from Malesia and also matched material cited by van Royen (1959). The type does not appear to have been examined by van Royen nor has it yet been seen by the author; however, based on the descriptions and illustration, the species is readily identified. *E. longifolium* has thus been collected in Australia as early as 1937 (Flecker s.n. [AQ200288] BRI).

The important distinguishing features of the two species are summarised in the key below. Distribution of each of the two taxa in Australia is shown in **Map 1**. *E. longifolium* is also widely distributed through Malesia, India and Madagascar while *E. australe* is also recorded from New Guinea.

- 1. Leaves pubescent at base; heads 7-10.5 mm wide; involucre bracts pubescent at base; receptacle pubescent with long hyaline hairs; flowers trimerous **E. australe**
- Leaves mostly glabrous, rarely slightly pubescent at base; heads 4-6 mm wide; involucre bracts glabrous; receptacle glabrous; flowers dimerous **E. longifolium**

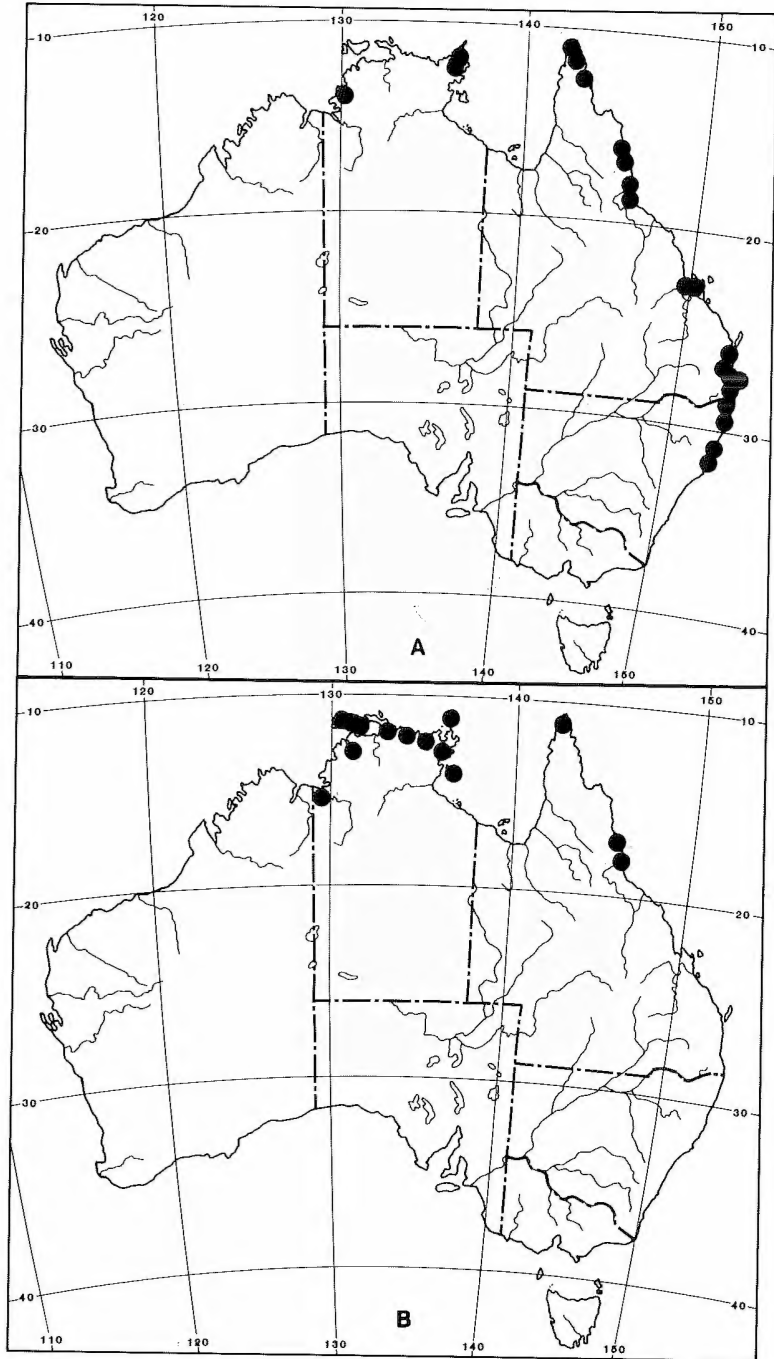
Index to collectors of material examined

(1 = *E. australe*; 2 = *E. longifolium*)

Aston, H.I. 2668, 2; Bell, C. 380, 1; Blake, S.T. 2142, 1; 2424, 1; 4989, 1; Brass, L.J. 2266, 1; 7603, 2; 7936, 1; 7951, 1; 8576, 1; 8638, 1; Brooker, M.I. 4093, 1; Clark, M.J. 1597, 1; Clarkson, J.R. 1046, 1; 2878, 1; Constable, E.F. NSW22205, 1; Coveny, R. 347, 1; 3525, 1; 6954, 1; Dunlop, C.R. 3448, 2; 4399, 2; Durrington, L. 1441, 1; Dodson, J. s.n., x.1971, 1; Enoh, M. 327, 2; Fensham, R. 262, 2; 316, 2; Flecker, H. AQ200288, 2; NSW52582, 1; Fosberg, F.R. 62369, 2; Harrold, A.G. 182, 1; Hearne, D.A. 1544, 2; Henshall, T.S. 1835, 2; 3811, 2; Henty, E.E. NGF38676, 1; NGF49406, 1; Higgins, R.L. s.n., iii.1919, 1; Himson, A. 55, 1; Hubbard, C.E. 3350, 1; Ingram, C.K. NSW63344, 1; Johnson, L.A.S. NSW17733, 1; Latz, P.K. 3407, 2; Leach, G.J. 1400, 2; 1529, 2; 2172, 2; 2307, 2; Levitt, D. 409, 2; Lucas, O.H. NSW58390, 1; Maiden, J.H. NSW58392, 1; Mckee, H.S. 9499, 1; McGillivray, D.J. 1892, 1; Michael, N. 570, 1; Mondy 278, 2; Morton, A.G. 755, 1; Must, J. 1642, 2; O'Gower, A.K. NSW209445, 1; Ridsdale, C.E. NGF33583, 1; Robinson, A.C. s.n., 20.i.1975, 1; Royen, P. van 4872, 1; Russell-Smith, J. 2101, 2; 2756, 2; 4422, 1; Scarth-Johnson, V. 833A, 1; Scortechini, s.n., s.d., 1; Shah, M. 571, 2; Sharpe, P.R. 129, 1; 1149, 1; 1646, 1; 1829, 1; 3970, 1; Simmonds, J.H. s.n., xii.1887, 1; Specht, R.L. 890, 1; Stocker, G. 680, 2; Thorsborne, A. 185, 1; 268, 2; Waddy, J. 562, 2; White, C.T. s.n., iii.1915, 1; iv.1915, 1; Whitehouse, F.W. s.n., s.d., 2; Wightman, G.M. 908, 2; Womersley, J.S. NGF6882, 1; NGF9344, 1; NGF9354, 1; Wrigley, J.W. 368, 1.

Acknowledgements

The Directors of BRI, NSW and PERTH are gratefully acknowledged for the loan of specimens.



Map 1. Distribution of *E. australe* (A) and *E. longifolium* (B).

References

- BENTHAM, G. (1878). *Eriocaulon*. *Flora australiensis* 7: 190–198. London: Lovell Reeve & Co.
- ROYEN, P. VAN (1959). *Sertulum papuanum* I. Eriocaulaceae. *Nova Guinea* (n.s.) 10: 21–44.
- RUHLAND, W. (1903). Eriocaulaceae. In Engler, A. (ed.), *Das Pflanzenreich*. IV, 13. Facsimile ed. Weinheim: Engelmann-Cramer.

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Accepted for publication 14 April 1989